



Jim Doyle  
Governor

Helene Nelson  
Secretary

## State of Wisconsin

### Department of Health and Family Services

608-266-1251  
FAX: 608-267-2832  
[www.dhfs.state.wi.us](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us)

## Recommendations for Smallpox Vaccine for Prevention of Monkeypox

The CDC has recommended that smallpox vaccine be offered to some to prevent future monkeypox illness. There is no evidence that the smallpox vaccine prevents monkeypox after a person has been exposed. However, there is evidence that the administration of smallpox vaccine within 3 – 4 days following exposure to smallpox will prevent smallpox or make it less severe. This suggested that smallpox vaccine may prevent monkeypox disease or make it less severe when administered after exposure to monkeypox. There is also evidence that smallpox vaccine may be 85% effective in preventing monkeypox when administered before exposure to the virus. All vaccination is voluntary.

### Who will be offered the vaccine?

1. Those who are providing care to animal or human cases of monkeypox, or directly involved with investigating monkeypox in public health settings or in the laboratory. (public health, health care, veterinary and laboratory workers)
2. Those who may provide care to animals or humans with monkeypox in the future (for example, nurses or veterinary technicians).
3. Those who had close or intimate contact with animal or human cases, and are within two weeks of that exposure. Close contact is spending at least three hours within six feet of the case. Intimate contact is defined as contact which could result in exposure to body fluids (such as treating skin lesions or being a bedpartner).

### Who should not get the vaccine?

1. If a person had contact with a human or animal case of monkeypox more than two weeks ago, the CDC and other pox virus experts do not believe that the smallpox vaccine will prevent illness. In this case, the risk of the vaccine is greater than the risk of the disease, and the vaccine will not be offered.
2. The general public, those who have not had any exposure to an animal or person with monkeypox, should not be vaccinated. Monkeypox is spread by exposure to a case of an animal or human with monkeypox viral infection.
3. Those who were exposed to an animal or person with monkeypox, more than two weeks ago. The CDC and other pox virus experts do not believe that the smallpox vaccine will prevent illness more than two weeks after exposure.
4. Those who have had indirect exposure or very short exposure to an animal or person with monkeypox. The CDC and other pox virus experts believe that the risk of disease is very low without close or intimate contact. Close contact is spending at least three hours within six feet of the case. Intimate contact is defined as contact which could result in exposure to body fluids (such as treating skin lesions or being a bedpartner).
5. Immunosuppressed people, whether due to transplant, HIV/AIDS, or treatment with drugs such as steroids, should not get the smallpox vaccine. In this case, the risk of the vaccine is greater than the risk of monkeypox.